

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-7 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as based on a disclosure that is not enabling.

The rejection is respectfully traversed. The application recites on page 39, lines 15-18, “In one embodiment, if the required HMAC is not present in a packet, the administration console replies with the Internet Control Message Protocol (ICMP) packet that would be sent if the port were not in use.” The Office Action acknowledges that from applicants’ disclosure “it is clear that the invention could use a known sub-code when generating an ICMP message...” A person of skill in the art would know that in an embodiment in which the reply is an ICMP message “the packet that would be sent if the port were not in use” is an ICMP packet of Type 3, Code 3, “Port Unreachable”. In fact, Type 3, Code 3, “Port Unreachable” appears to be the only type/code listed in the ICMP specification that mentions the word “port”. Filed concurrently herewith is a Rule 132 Declaration of Brian Hernacki, an architect at Symantec Corporation, which further makes clear that a person of ordinary skill in the art in the field of computer networking and security at the time the invention was made would have known that in the case of ICMP, the specific message that would signify a port not being in use is an ICMP packet of Type 3, Code 3, “Port Unreachable”. As such, claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

Like claim 1, claims 6 and 7 recite “configuring the external device to reply to any packet in which the required valid authorization information is not present with the packet that would be generated by the computer in response to an attempt to communicate via the connectionless port at a time when no device was connected to the connectionless port.” As such, claims 6 and 7 are believed to be allowable.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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